

aerospace engineers. I would not be surprised if future breakthroughs in space technology came from alumni of the United Space School program. It is therefore my pleasure to extend my congratulations to the United Space School program on the occasion of the United Space School Day. I also extend my thanks to NASA, the Johnson Space Center, the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, East Texas AHEC, and all the volunteers who help make the United Space School program possible.

H.R. 5531 NEXT GENERATION RADIATION SCREENING ACT OF 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. PETER T. KING

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 29, 2008

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5531, the Next Generation Screening Act of 2008, and I urge my colleagues to support passage of this critical homeland security bill.

I introduced H.R. 5531 on March 5, 2008, to enhance the effectiveness of the Department of Homeland Security's radiation detection capabilities. Over the past several years, the Department of Homeland Security has made significant progress in deploying radiation detectors at our Nation's ports of entry. While this capability provides a critical layer in our defense against radiological and nuclear terrorism, Customs officials are overburdened by alarms due to radioactive material that is not a threat, such as medical therapeutics, cat litter, and fertilizer.

To reduce this burden on Customs officials, the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office within the Department of Homeland Security, initiated an aggressive research program to develop, test, evaluate, and deploy the next generation of radiation detection technology. This technology, known as the Advanced Spectroscopic Portal, or ASP, is capable of identifying, as well as detecting, radioactive material.

Preliminary results from actual field tests of the ASP systems show a reduction in nuisance alarms by a factor of 20. This means that ports such as the Port of Long Beach in California could reduce the number of radiological alarms that require secondary inspection from 500 per day to 20 per day—resulting in an enormous savings in time and resources for Customs officials.

Although technical progress has been made, the ASP system has not yet been deployed. There have been a series of delays with the ASP program due to miscommunication or misunderstanding between the government agencies involved, the stakeholders, and additional certification requirements established by the Congress.

Therefore, this bill addresses system capability, which appears to be the largest source of miscommunication between the agency preparing the ASP—the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office—and the agency responsible for using the ASP in the field—Customs and Border Protection.

Specifically this legislation directs the Director of the Domestic Nuclear Detection Office and the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection to enter into a memorandum of un-

derstanding regarding the minimum standards of operational functionality in order to deploy ASP systems. This is not in any way an attempt to rush development of a system, but merely a requirement to spell out in plain English what type of system is required by those who will be operating that system in the field.

This legislation also clarifies a provision in title IV of division E of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110–161, which requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a report to Congress certifying that “a significant increase in operational effectiveness will be achieved” with the ASP system before “funds appropriated under this heading shall be obligated for full-scale procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors” and requires that “the Secretary shall submit separate and distinct certifications prior to the procurement of Advanced Spectroscopic Portal Monitors for primary and secondary deployment that address the unique requirements for operational effectiveness of each type of deployment.”

H.R. 5531 requires the Secretary to develop a quantitative definition of “significant increase in operational effectiveness” and develop appropriate metrics for measuring this effectiveness.

In addition to authorizing the ASP program, this bill also authorizes the Securing the Cities Initiative, which is a successful program that enhances security in the New York City metropolitan region. Funding for the Securing the Cities Initiative is used to deploy next generation radiation detection technology to detect the illicit transportation of nuclear and radiological material in urban areas. The Securing the Cities Initiative has fostered unprecedented collaboration and coordination among its Federal, state, and local partners and has enhanced the security of the New York Metropolitan region. H.R. 5531 authorizes \$40 million for this vital program, which is the same amount appropriated in Fiscal Year 2008, to ensure its continuation in Fiscal Year 2009.

The full Committee on Homeland Security approved H.R. 5531 by unanimous voice vote on June 26, 2008. I urge all Members to join me in supporting passage of this bill.

EARMARK DECLARATION

HON. ROBERT E. LATTA

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. LATTA. Madam Speaker, I submit the following:

Requesting Member: Congressman ROBERT E. LATTA.

Bill Number: HR. 6599: Military Construction and Veterans' Affairs Appropriations Act.

Account: Department of Defense; Army National Guard.

Legal Name of Requesting Entity: Ohio National Guard.

Address of Requesting Entity: 2825 West Dublin Granville Road, Columbus, Ohio 43235.

Description of Request: Provide \$2 million in P-341 (unspecified minor military construction) funds pursuant to Title 10 US Code 2805, to construct a new 80-bed barracks at the Ohio National Guard's Camp Perry Training Site,

Port Clinton, OH. The request will increase the readiness of our servicemen and women in the Ohio National Guard and help them better prepare for the challenges they face both at home and abroad.

PERSONAL EMPLANATION

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I was unable to cast a vote on the following legislative measure on July 15, 2008. If I were present for the roll call vote, I would have voted Yea on the following:

Roll No. 491, July 15, 2008: On Passage, Objections of the President Not Withstanding: H.R. 6331, To amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to extend expiring provisions under the Medicare Program, to improve beneficiary access to preventive and mental health services, to enhance low-income benefit programs, and to maintain access to care in rural areas, including pharmacy access, and for other purposes.

TRIBUTE TO MARK COVERT

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Covert who, on July 23rd, harked the 40th anniversary of an unparalleled running streak. Covert, a running coach and former elite athlete, has run at least one mile every day since July 23rd 1968. Overall, he has run 140,045 miles—and counting—since the streak began. The United States Running Streak Association lists Mark Covert as the current U.S. leader for the longest continuous streak.

Although he currently lives in Lancaster, California, where he coaches the Antelope Valley College cross country and track teams, Covert's streak is actually a significant part of Oregon history. One of the most important “daily runs” of the streak came in 1972, when Covert ran in the U.S. Olympic Marathon Trials at the University of Oregon, in Eugene. Even though he just missed making the team, he still made history by being the first athlete to cross a finish line wearing an unusual pair of shoes with rubber soles that were made on a waffle iron.

These so-called “moon shoes” were invented in the kitchen of an enterprising entrepreneur named Bill Bowerman. Bowerman, along with his partner Phil Knight, based an entire company and, indeed, an entire fitness movement, on these revolutionary shoes. The company, of course, is Nike, and Covert was one of the first employees in the early 1970s. He has stayed true to the legacy by running 117,028 miles in Nikes over the years.

The partnership continued at this year's Olympic Track and Field Trials—held, once again, at the University of Oregon's historic Hayward Field—where Nike sold T-shirts honoring two different athletes—legendary Oregon runner Steve Prefontaine and, you guessed it, Mark Covert.